



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Driving Indiana's Economic Growth

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Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., Governor
Michael B. Cline, Commissioner

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Dear Indiana School Administrators and Public Officials:

In 2006, the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) launched the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program in Indiana to make bicycling and walking to school safe and routine. SRTS funds help create an environment where children in kindergarten through eighth grade can safely get to school on bikes or on foot. More and more, Americans realize that traffic congestion and air pollution near our schools, coupled with growing health and obesity concerns, make walking and biking to school reasonable, low-cost and attractive transportation options.

INDOT administers the SRTS program that makes reimbursement funds available for approved activities and projects. The Department relies on an application process and an advisory committee to determine the most worthwhile projects. This letter is to inform you that INDOT will accept 2011 SRTS applications from April 1st through May 27th of this year. Watch the INDOT SRTS Web page, <http://saferoutes.in.gov>, for the 2011 application and application guide. Student and parent survey forms, directions for submitting survey data and other relevant information are also available on the website. And this year we are introducing a parent survey online option.

School principals, school district officials, school nurses and PE teachers, local transportation officials and planners, health care and law enforcement officials, bicycle and pedestrian advocates are encouraged to work together to improve bicycling and walking to school and get our children more physically active. What education, enforcement and encouragement techniques will get more children bicycling or walking to school in your town? What improvements would make it safer for students to walk to public and private schools? What policies that discourage walking or biking to school can we change? How can we partner with parents and health officials to create more effective Safe Routes programs?

Did you know that approved SRTS education, enforcement, evaluation and encouragement programs may be 100% reimbursable? To find out more about the national Safe Routes to School Program go to: www.saferoutesinfo.org and <http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/saferoutes/>. Please contact Michael O'Loughlin at INDOT at moloughlin@indot.in.gov or visit the INDOT SRTS Web page to find out more about the Indiana Safe Routes to School Program.

Sincerely,

Michael O'Loughlin
Safe Routes to School Program Manager